

Newport, Sept. 28.

W ILL Mrs. Seth Barton French, one of the handsomest and richest widows of New York, say "Yes" to that modern Oroesus of international society. James J. Van Alen, and thus cause his charming daughter, Miss May Van Alen much anguish of mind, negative all her stepmamma-against stratagems and battles, and destroy once and for all time Mr. Van Alen's fondness for widows?

In the clubs on Fifth avenue and in Newport odds are three to one that she will.

There have been many widows in Mr. Van Alen's life. Of all kinds, there have been a baker's dozen. All have been pretty.

All have been pretty. Mr. Van Alen, son-in-law of the late Mrs. Astor and oldest brotherin-law of Colonel Jack Astor, is a most desirable parti. He has houses and lands, stocks and bonds. He owns a gray stone mansion in Newport, a palace in New York and a castle in England. He is so rich—he can wear a monocle and an old Panama hat! He keeps a flock of sheep to crop his Newport lawns, and he could pave his driveway with diamonds if he wanted to.



## And Eternal Vigilance Is the Price of Liberty--was that alluring, that oh. so beautiful Mrs. Pedar Brugulere, who flashed across Newport's akles last Summer. Before her hazel eyes The Heart Chase of an Interna-

was that alluring, that oh. so beautiful Mrs. Pedar Bruguiere, who flashed across Newport's aklesiss! Summer. Before her hazel eyes J. J. went down with a sickening thud. He openly deserted his own friends, he neglected to keep engagements. And all for the beautiful Mrs. Bruguiere who had been twice widowed by the decree of the divorce court! Oh death, where is thy sting?

Mrs. Brugulere's smiles were fought for by half a dozen weilknown Newporters. And because of this, the ladies, bless 'em all, were annoyed. Daughter May was most emphatically annoyed. She was peevish, and one expected to see her mount a gatling gun on the lawns of Wakehurst and fire at all comers.

But Daughter May did not actually have to fire that gun. Mrs. Brugulere, after having the time of her life bothering the Newport dames, showed her decided preference for another man and left Pa-pa with her picture and a sinking feeling in his heart. And where could Pa-pa find

of London and of comfortable Mr. James, she went to Paris and worse than all, she told him that she would not come to Newport this season! Ob, ye tears!

season! Oh, ye tears! Mrs. Redmond when she wearled of London went to New York, telling him she could not spend the Summer in Newport. Million-

But the last two widows relented. Both Mrs. Redmond and Mrs. French did appear in Newport-the former lived on board her steam yacht Sultana.

Yes, Mrs. French spent two weeks at Wakehurst: And Daughter May was perfectly polite to her. And pa-pa? Ah. let us not give pa-pa away! He grew twenty years younger? He was beatind?

aire.

tional Society

The widows who have interested him have known all this. It looked good to them.

Miss May Van Alen, who values her liberty and papa's as she does her life, knows it, too. A little widow is a dangerous thing and eternal vigilance is the price of freedom or words to that effect. Oh, the times daughter has had to crush papa's romantic yearnings! There, for instance, was the eautiful Countess Fabbricotti, beautiful luscious and lovely as any peach. ready to fall into his mouth. Success seemed ready to perch on her treetop when William K. Vanderbilt, senior, appeared as a rival. In playing one against the other the lovely Countess lost both! Ah, the poor Countess!

She has since consoled herself, but she is the only one of James J's widows to do so!

When the Fabbricotti episode closed James J. came back to Newport "Fil try widows," he said, "but they must be home bred."

In Newport he found the sumptuous Mrs. Gambrill. This was a great find for Jimmy! Mrs. Gambrill's husband had died. leaving her one son and several millions of dollars. Some of this money she spent in building a genuine French chateau on Bellevue avenue and in developing some wonderful gardens. Mr. Van Alen looked upon her

Mr. Van Alen looked upon her and found her good. He likewise found a rival on the doorstep, Mr. Egerton Winthrop, senior.

Oh, the fun Newport had! The two well-dowered dandles struggling for the smiles of the charming widow!

James J was tremendously in earnest. He courted the widow in daylight and moonlight. He fairly lived in her lovely rose garden, where there was a secluded Summer house. Mr. Winthrop blocked every move his rival made. The widow had two steady cavallers, and apparently enjoyed it

The public bus drivers even scented the fun. They would stop their buses in front of the chateau and shrilly say. "Here lives the Widow Gambrill, who can have Jiminy Van Alen if she wants him, but she also likes Egie Winthrop!"

This is actual fact-or was until the police stopped it. Have you ever heard the bus drivers at Newport explaining things to the marvelling tourist? No?

Just when all beemed propitious for "Jimmy", Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs appeared on the scene and the humorous bus drivers changed their tune! "Here lives the Widow Gambrill, who let Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs take Jimmy Van Alen away from her!"

The season closed. Mr. Van Alen returned to England still uncaught and unwed. And there he found widow number 4-the dazzling, dark-eyed brunette, the fascinating

Mirs. Seth Barton French, Who May Become Mrs. James

J. Van Alen. Mrs. George Law. James J. fell under the thrail of those eyes. What chance had James J. then?

History repeated itself. Just as be felt that his freedom was slipping away, just as he felt that those eyes, and the fascinating manner of Mrs. Law had him tight in sailed Daughter May, and the day was saved!

Miss Van Alen firmly removed pa-pa to Rushton Hall, the gorgeous country place where pa-pa was supposed to live.

"There is a houseparty down there," said Daughter May, "and there's two widows there if you must have them."

Yes, there were two widows, but Miss Van Alen was only pulling of her ardent father out of the frying a pan and throwing him into the fire. In that houseparty were Mrs. Ava Willing Astor and Mrs. Billy Leeds.

Papa had known the beautiful Jan Mrs. Astor since her childhood. Wi She had been the wife of his wife's W h brother. He admired her tremerdously. He began to single her out for his distinguished attentions. the Oh, me! Oh, my! Daughter Frez May was furious! But Daughter May was beloke

May was helplebs. But stay! Who is this coming gaily to the rescue? Who at this who smile gently on erring pa-pa and make him falter in his pursuit of the lovely divorce." Mrs. Billy Leeds, if you please! Mrs. Leeds, in diamonds, war paint and gold leaf. Mrs. Leeds with her blue eyes blazing with excitement and her figure as alert

as ever was Diana's. Mr. Van A. hesitates--on one sidthe beauty and charm he knows, on the other an untried field. On one side the woman he will have to work hard to get, on the other the woman who is working hard to get him! He goes over to Mrs. Leeds and once more gossip says that he is lost!

At any rate that house party at Rushton Hall will long be remembered! Mrs. Leeds got her innings and it looked like wedding cards for several weeks.

What broke up her plans? Daughter May! When things had gone far enough Miss Van Alen developed appendicitis and the party broke up. Pa-pa had to devote himself to his daughter. Mrs Leeds returned to London. Mrs Astor remained, but carefully let Mr. Van Alen know that she could never, never marry her late husband's brother-in-law.

And sadly, Jimmy added memories five and six to his widow collection.

Within twelve months there have been four widows added to Mr. Van Alen's collection. And four particulari: comfort? Right at his own gateway! He turned to Mrs. Elsie French Vanderbilt! Mrs. Vanderbilt might have been his granddaughter.

Alas for James J. Mrs. Vanderbilt as a child had been taught to show respect to her elders. She placed Mr. Van A. on a par with her grandfather and was awfully nice to him. But Mr. Van A. did not want to be treated like a grandfather, and he went off to London in a huff.

With his lacerated feelings needing expert surgical treatment, he met, in England, two charming blondes, Mrs. Henry Redmond and Mrs. Seth Barton French. He had known them both in their early days in Newport. In England they were very good to him. He called at

Claridge's one day to get comfort from Mrs Redmond and he trotted over to the Savoy the next to get c o m fort from Mrs French. Those were busy days for Mr. James!

tood. What happened? ife's When Mrs. men-French, the handrout some widow of the late Seth ther French, wearied What comes next? Both Mrs. French and Mr. Van Alen are to spend October at the Hot Springs. And the odds are even now

And the odds are even now now three to one! "Oh, the merry widow and the man!"

> "There have been many widows in Mr. Van Alen's life. Of all kinds, there have been a baker's dozen. All have been pretty."

This Is Mr. James J. Van Alen, Beside Him Miss May Van Alen, and Next, Widow Mrs. George Law, Former - Widow Countess Fabriocotti, Widow Mrs. William Lands, Court Widow Mrs. John Jacob Astor and Widow Mrs. Henry S. Redmand. The Very Beautiful Widow Mrs. Pedar Bruguiere is in the Centre